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PATENT

S.N. 10/830,171

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-20 remain in the application.

Claims 1 and 8 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly the subject matter of the claims.

Claims 2, 6, 7, and 13 are amended to provide proper antecedents to the corresponding independent claims.

Claim 4 is cancelled.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of prior claim 4, thus, the support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in prior claim 4. Support for the amendment to claim 8 can be found at least in claim 13.

35 USC 102 Rejection:

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. patent no. 6,031,361 issued to Burnstein et al ("Burnstein"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's amended claim 1 includes, among other features, forming the switch controller to receive a third control signal from another switch controller. The Burnstein reference is silent on receiving a third control signal from another switch controller. Although the Burnstein switch controller (18 as cited in the Office Action) generates a third control signal, the Burnstein switch controller does not receive a third control signal from another switch controller. Even if the slaves (16) or interpreters (48) of Burnstein are viewed as the switch controllers, none of the slaves (16) or interpreters (48) receive a control signal from another slave (16) or Interpreter (48) as would be required by amended claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the relied on reference can not anticipate amended claim 1.

ONS000558
PATENT

S.N. 10/830,171

Claims 2-3 and 5-7 depend from amended claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the relied on reference does not anticipate claims 2-3 and 5-7.

Applicant's amended claim 8 includes, among other features, wherein the switch controller is configured to operate in a loop configuration with another switch controller. Burnstein does not disclose that controller 18 is configured to operate in a loop configuration with another switch controller. Even if Burnstein's slaves 16 or interpreters 48 are viewed as the switch controller, neither are configured to operate in a loop configuration nor operate with another switch controller. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the relied on reference is deficient in anticipating amended claim 8.

Claims 9-16 depend from amended claim 8 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 8.

ONS000558
PATENT

S.N. 10/830,171

Applicant's claim 17 includes, among other features, coupling a first switch controller to drive a first power switch, coupling a second switch controller to drive a second power switch, and driving a third control input of the first switch controller with first control output of the second switch controller. Burnstein does not disclose two switch controllers as required by claim 17. Additionally, Burnstein does not disclose driving a control input of one switch controller with a control output of the second switch controller. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the relied on reference is deficient in anticipating claim 17.

Claims 18-20 depend from claim 17 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 17.

The references cited but not relied upon were reviewed and are believed not to anticipate or make obvious applicants' invention.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant(s) made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. In view of all of the above, it is believed that the claims are allowable, and that the case is now in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Although it is believed that no fees are due for this amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1086.

If there are matters which can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
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